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ORR Intelligence

Request for info on Chinese Communist Rural Housing
Program

Paragraph 2

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1. [REDACTED] has noted with considerable interest ORR report NR 251 dated 24 October 1958 (Construction of New Housing in Communist China, 1953-57). We feel that it is of definite value to the station. The usefulness of this report for our particular purposes here, however, is somewhat limited by the fact that it deals almost exclusively with worker and urban housing. SIS would very much like to have any similar data on rural housing, particularly if it can be related to the problems and the magnitude of tasks facing the Chinese Communists in providing housing for the rural commune program. More specifically: is data available indicating whether it is within the practical capability of the Chinese Communists to provide the rural communes with the housing and support facilities impliedly called for by the current program? What major problems face the Chinese in the rural housing field and what are their prospects for solving them? What magnitude of resources is involved in this facet of the economy and what sacrifices are necessary to make them available?

2. While other questions might be posed, SIS first would like to determine the status of ORR information on the field of rural housing and whether there is a reasonable prospect that a study along this line can be made available to us in the near future.

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13 January 1959

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